



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Terrence Eugene Newkirk, age 35, of Norfolk, Virginia, was sentenced yesterday by the Honorable Jerome B. Friedman, United States District Court Judge, to life imprisonment for his conviction of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine and cocaine. He also received an additional 30 years, consecutive to the life sentence, for two convictions of carrying a firearm in relation to drug trafficking.

Newkirk was involved in the November 1993 murder of Nelson Roberson who had been abducted in Norfolk, bound, gagged and transported to Sussex County where he was shot execution style at a landfill. He had also been involved in numerous drug-related shootings and robberies.

Newkirk was charged in a 19-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Norfolk, Virginia, on February 25, 2004. He pled guilty to the charges during the first day of trial in December 2004.

Following his sentencing yesterday, the courtroom erupted when Newkirk refused to be placed into handcuffs. The United States Marshals Service had the situation well-in-hand and removed the defendant and spectators from the courtroom without any injuries.

Mr. McNulty stated: "This defendant engaged in a pattern of drug trafficking and drug-related violent crime from 1990 to 2003. He is responsible for the murder of Nelson Roberson, numerous robberies and drug-related shootings. This sentence means an extremely dangerous person will permanently be off the streets and behind bars."

The investigation was by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and the Norfolk Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Laura P. Tayman prosecuted the case.

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